

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-17, 19-32, and 34-49 were pending in this application and subjected to a restriction requirement. Restriction to one of the following inventions was requested:

Group I: Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 16, 17, 19-26, 31, 32, and 34-36;

Group II: Claims 12-15, 27-30, and 37-40;

Group III: Claims 41-46; and

Group IV: Claims 47-49.

In response to the restriction, Applicant elects to prosecute the claims in Group I (i.e., claims 1, 2, 4-11, 16, 17, 19-26, 31, 32, and 34-36) without traverse. No new matter has been added.

Claims corresponding to groups II, III, and IV have accordingly been canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the non-elected claims in divisional applications.

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 16, 17, 19-26, 31, 32, and 34-36 remain pending in this application upon entry of this amendment response.

Applicant would also like to draw the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed for the application on December 21, 2004.

Appl. No. 10/006,179
Amdt. dated February 1, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2004

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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